Tilting of Qutab Minar

3252. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that study has been carried out to find out if Qutab Minar in Delhi has tilted;

(b) if so, the details thereof such as extent of tilt, its effect on safety of Minar and its surroundings etc.; and

(c) what precautionary measures are being taken to prevent any mishap?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. The study of tilting of Qutab Minar, Delhi has been carried out by Geodetic and Research Branch of Survey of India, Dehradun.

(b) Based on the Triangulation, Traversing and levelling data which was observed from 1975-1994, Survey of India, *vide* the report dated 16.02.1998 confirmed that the extent of tilt of Qutab Minar has been very negligible being at the rate of 9-10 arc seconds per year. The study pertaining to tilting of Qutab Minar was repeated in April, 2005 and the computation is in progress. However, the preliminary study shows that there is not much of a change from the earlier report. Exact amount of tilt observed during the recent study will be known after the completion of the computations.

(c) The foundation of the Minar has been strengthened by grouting in the year 1971-72. Further measures, if required, will be taken after receipt of final report from Survey of India.

Study on minarets of Taj Mahal

3253. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Survey of India is getting a study conducted to examine the Taj's four minarets to check for a possible tilt;

(b) if so, whether Archaeological Survey of India has also asked the School of Planning and Architecture to prepare a common master plan for the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri at Agra; and

(c) whether these study reports are likely to be made available?